

C.L.G. Today™



Official Newsletter of the National Clogging Leaders Organization

By: Barbara Elko

Brian Dion thought a clogging workshop in his neck of the woods would be welcomed. Having little knowledge on how to successfully put a workshop together he went to Jeff Driggs for advice.... the rest is history. Brian and the Buckeye County Cloggers just hosted their fourth annual workshop, which takes place in early February. The venue is the Baku Grotto Hall in Mansfield Ohio. Cabin Fever is the perfect name for this workshop because those present were listless from the confinement of a long cold winter. The Baku Grotto Hall was very accommodating for a one room workshop. There was plenty of room for the approximately 130 people attending. A tasty lunch was served on site. Parking was ample and free! The area itself was very convenient, just off the highway, many hotels and restaurants located just minutes away.



A one room workshop is a bit unique, most of us have become accustomed to several rooms running. First impression entering the Baku Grotto Hall it was cozy and comfortable. The crowd was a melting pot of different teams, from a variety of states, and a wide range of ages.



Dancers spent the day with a great line up of instructors Brian Dion, Jeff Driggs, Naomi Pyle, Trevor DeWitt and Andrew Perry. Something else that was unique to this one room workshop the classes were not timed they just ran them. I can not even guess how many were taught. My exhausted legs and feet told me at least a zillion! The routines were superb. Everyone was excited to welcome back Naomi Pyle. This was her first time teaching in months. Naomi has been staying close to family during her granddaughter's critical illness. She expressed her gratitude for all the prayers and support she has received. The time off did not effect Naomi she grabbed the microphone and took control. She shared an easy level routine to a Christian song titled Say

Hello, and an intermediate Bluegrass routine to Hard to Handle, both were crowd pleasers. Jeff Driggs came prepared, his ability to consistently write exceptional routines is uncanny. Friday evening Jeff walked across some black ice resulting in fall and a very sore ankle. With a little help from his friends Jeff presented routines to the songs Absolutely Everyone, Come Alive, and Dance Dance Dance. Host Brian Dion and Jeff teamed up showing a routine to Dierks Bentley's Burning Man. This was Brian's music selection and it was one everyone enjoyed. Andrew Perry first teach was to a Christian Bluegrass song called Prayin' Shoes. As a clogger you are familiar with the extra beats that occur in Bluegrass Music. Usually two double steps are added to cover those extra beats. Andrew's Round Way Out was an ingenious way to take care of those extra beats. The dancers had fun pointing fingers at each other during this routine. His second teach was to Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da an old Beatles tune.

Learning from the talented Trevor DeWitt is always a positive experience. His wit is as light as his footwork. His steps as slick as his drag/slide and his music choices spot on. He taught a routine to One Shot a Hunter Hayes song. The routine had good steps and great flow. Trevor and Naomi teamed up and presented a routine to



(Continued on page 4)

CLOG Today

CLOG Today is published bi-monthly by

CLOG - The National Clogging Leaders Organization, Inc.

David & Susan Phillips, Executive Directors
2986 Mill Park Court
Dacula GA USA 30019
Phone: (678) 889-4355 • Fax: (603) 925-0967
clog@clog.org • www.clog.org

Send address changes to CLOG, Inc.

CLOG Board of Directors:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| President/Board Chair: | vacant |
| Vice President: | Marie Lovelace |
| Secretary: | Janice Hanzel |
| Treasurer/CFO: | Reed Davis |
| Members: | Barb Guenette, Dustin Stephan, Janice Jestin, and Shane Gruber |

CLOG Today (formerly known as the *Flop-Eared Mule*) is the official newsletter for the National Clogging Leaders Organization, Inc., published by cloggers, for cloggers, in an effort to share clogging news and to promote and preserve the Clogging dance form.

CLOG members receive a copy of the *CLOG Today* newsletter as a benefit of CLOG membership. CLOG offers two membership classes: Gold (\$30.00 per year) and Silver (\$25.00 per year), US funds only.

CLOG Today Staff

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Editor: | Pam Smiley 800 Hammershire Rd Owings Mills, Md 21117 443-377-4573 clogtoday@clog.org |
|----------------|--|

CLOG encourages all cloggers and clogging enthusiasts to contribute to the content of the newsletter. Please send news items, advertising, comments, and/or suggestions to the editor.

High-quality images and documents in Microsoft Word (attached to e-mail) are preferred. Original photos and documents sent via postal mail are also accepted (please send SASE for materials you wish to be returned).

Advertising rates are available online or by

| Issue: | Deadline: |
|-------------------|-------------|
| January-February | December 15 |
| March-April | February 15 |
| May-June | April 15 |
| July-August | June 15 |
| September-October | August 15 |
| November-December | October 15 |

contacting the editor.

The opinions in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the editor, staff, CLOG, or the Board of Directors. *CLOG Today* reserves the right to use, edit, or withhold from publication any material submitted.

Copyright © 2016 by CLOG, Inc.

CCI Showcase



"Many can teach, but only a precious few can reach"

Enroll today to experience the education of the Certified Clogging Instructor Program and the teaching tips from more than 50 established clogging instructors.

When you apply for CCI you'll be on your way to improving your instructional skills. You'll join a select group of men and women who have made the ultimate commitment to excellence in clogging instruction, career advancement and the ongoing pursuit of knowledge.

Upcoming Sessions:

June 7-8, 2019—Jonesboro, AR
October 2-3, 2019—Waterloo, ON, Canada
November 27-28, 2019—Las Vegas, NV

Marilyn Hansen CCI Tuition Scholarship

In Honor and memory of Marilyn Hansen

What is the Marilyn Hansen Scholarship?

This scholarship was established to honor the memory of Marilyn Hansen, a woman who supported clogging through much of her life and was dedicated to the cause of education in the area of clogging instructors. This grant includes tuition scholarship for the Certified Clogging Instructor Program for two sessions and the application fee worth \$310.00.



- This scholarship does not include travel and lodging.
- The scholarship cannot be applied to franchise sponsored CCI Sessions, it can only be applied to CCI Sessions offered by CLOG such as sessions offered during the National CLOG Convention.
- The scholarship must be used in the same year it is awarded.
- The minimum age limit for CCI seminars and the scholarship is 16 years of age.

How To Apply:

Letters of Application will be accepted from January 1, 2018 through April 30, 2018. Applicants will be notified by May 31, 2018.

For more information visit: Clog.org

"Many can teach, but only a precious few can reach"

Enroll today to experience the education of the Certified Clogging Instructor Program and the teaching tips from more than 50 established clogging instructors.

When you apply for CCI you'll be on your way to improving your instructional skills. You'll join a select group of men and women who have made the ultimate commitment to excellence in clogging instruction, career advancement and the ongoing pursuit of knowledge.

On the beat.....

It's a Surfin' Safari in Buffalo!



By: Barbara Elko

Once again the location for the workshop was the Adam Marks Hotel in Buffalo New York. Due to the recent sale of the property it has been renamed the Buffalo Grand Hotel.

Things got underway Thursday evening, with fun dances running in two rooms. This is unique to Nickel City, one room is requests, in the other the host instructor selects the dances. The Surfing' Safari theme really motivated the creative juices of the cloggers.

Friday evening, life preservers, surfboards, jelly fish, scuba gear, bathing suits, sharks, deep sea divers, even a couple of octopuses were seen dancing at the 2019 Nickel City Festival. The instructors full heartedly supported the theme with a huge variety of related routines. Immeasurable energy filled the building the entire weekend.

This year was a mixture of seldom seen, sometimes seen, and always seen, instructors. It was a grand mixture of what one was accustomed to encountering and the mystifying unknown.

RAD best describes Dalita Diaz de Arce a dazzling instructor from Florida. She was well prepared, clear, and fun. She has tons of experience both stateside and internationally I guess the question is why is she so under utilized at workshops?

It may be his height-well over 6 feet, it may be his deep voice which reminds one of Earl Jones, it may be his welcoming demeanor, whatever it is Todd Harry from Washington has a following. Good music selections, unique steps (especially his advanced) and great communication with the dancers are the reasons his classes fill.



Colleen Zurbrigg, sporting an attractive new hairdo, from Ontario Canada was a busy lady. She taught five classes: one pop, one bluegrass, and three country routines. Colleen vigorously handled her five teaches, and a job well done at the fun dances.

Peter Wee is always a welcome site at a workshop. He is from Singapore, but presently he calls Australia home. He is a disciplined dancer, and a fun instructor, who finds quirky music to write routines to.

Florida instructor Paul Melville is a talented dancer. He is extremely comfortable on stage. He easily handles his teaches, while entertaining those taking his class with his quick wit. Paul had a room full of cloggers surfin' to his routine to Hawaiian Roller Coaster Ride tons of fun!

We have been seeing more of Chris Phelps an instructor from Michigan. He is energetic, and has a real passion for teaching. His Semi-Charmed routine was a fine example of his stuff.

Jeigh Maynard, a new instructor, absolutely nailed her intermediate plus routine. Several things made this class a great choice. The routine was



interesting, well paced, clearly taught by a personable instructor. Good job!

Katie Stakely is a very engaging instructor from Florida. She had a couple of country routines that were crowd pleasers.

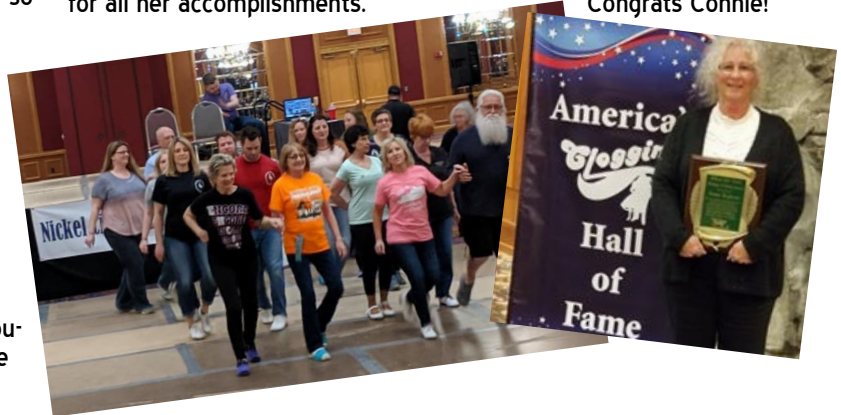
The O'Brien twin sisters taught an intermediate plus routine to the song Friday Night. I am not sure who had more fun the twins teaching together or those taking the class!

Instructors Barbara D'Aiutolo (Eric Canal Cloggers) Bekka and Patty Gunner (Backwood Cloggers, Tension) had great teaches. Aliccia Sedorus keeping with the surfin' theme had a fun routine to the song Koko-mo. All of these ladies are involved with the hard work behind the Nickel City Festival.

Ava Ludwig who was recently awarded her CCI certification at the 2018 C.L.O.G. National Convention in Atlanta Georgia presented a couple of advanced pop routines which were well received. Katrina Kaplin offered a beginner plus routine to Catchy Song. She also was awarded her CCI certification at the 2018 C.L.O.G. National Convention.

Hannah Elhard an instructor from Ohio shared a great routine to Lost In Japan. Tim Smith from New Jersey has been dancing at the Nickel City Festival most of his Life. It was great to see him on stage teaching! Kaitlyn Hedrick enthusiastically taught an advanced step class. A very special lady and seasoned instructor.

Connie Huffman held two classes on how to hoedown. Teaching a group of folks that are foreign to hoedowns, in a short period of time, is a immense challenge, one which Connie always welcomes. After 30 years she has retired the Hoosier Hoedowners. This was a difficult decision. She will still be available to teach at workshops. This past fall she was awarded the William (Bill) Nichols Heritage in Action Award for all her accomplishments. Congrats Connie!



Happy to report, Jeff's foot and Morgan's shoulder are mending. Despite their injuries they eagerly share their routines.

Due to the surfin' theme the workshop looked like a Shane Gruber look alike contest. Many attendees were wearing Hawaiian shirts...but we all know there is only one Shane Gruber!

Naomi Pyle remains a magnet for dancers. Her humor and teaching skills sets the stage for a fun class.

Floridian, Andy Howard had inspiring routines to Swing, Pop, Country, and Celtic music along with countless theme routines for the fun dances!

Missy Shinoski has it all speed, grace, and clarity. She put together a zany routine to a country song titled No U In Oklahoma. It was amusing!

More Cabin Fever....

(Continued from page 1)

Make It Sweet by Old Dominion. Together these two write some fabulous routines, this was no exception.

Three young ladies, members of the Walnut Hill Cloggers, performed a entertaining demo. Ana Fisher, Hallie and Grace Spreitzer danced a routine to the song Hanging Tree. First time this trio did a demo without their director...great job!



Sporting the same t-shirts The Backliners, gathered for a parking lot hoedown. The idea of a parking lot hoedown is to practice in the parking lot prior to the demo. The Backliners, a brave bunch, skipped the practice, and relied solely on Jeff Driggs cueing. I think we may see these fun loving folks again!

The fun dance followed the demos. It began by dancing all the routines that were taught earlier. A single room workshop made this possible. The national dance list and request list rounded out the evening. This one room workshop was a great experience!

Cabin Fever easily defeated the winter time blues. Thanks to everyone who made it possible. Hats off to Brian Dion and the Buckeye Cloggers!



The beach goes on.....

(Continued from page 3)

Andrew Perry had a selection of pop routines to pick from. He uses boundless energy teaching and hosting the fun dances.

Judy Waymouth always does an outstanding job teaching and selecting music. The date for the first Canadian National, which Judy is hosting, is fast approaching October 3-5. This is an event you do not want to miss!

Eleven groups participated in Saturday evenings demos. First up a hoedown taught earlier by Connie Huffman. It is a feat to get newbies to successfully hoedown in a short period of teaching time, but Connie Huffman is a pro and pulled it off.

Amy's Got Talent is always a crowd pleaser, because Amy rocks! Symphony Dance did an incredible job keeping with the theme. Cold Creek and Quinte Bay Cloggers, are two teams from Ontario Canada. It was their fourth year performing at Nickel City, great demo. Northern Explosion Dance Studio brought a ton of energy to the dance floor. Under the direction of Donna Becker the Lehigh Valley Cloggers continue to grow and improve, great demo!

Backwoods Ladybugs, these five young dancers beach balls in hand took to the dance floor and immediately won the hearts of the audience.

Backliners it was fun watching this group of friends dancing together, they clearly enjoyed themselves. Sure was a lot of talent out on the floor! The Backwoods Thunder's hard work is evident, these young ladies nailed their routine!

Every year the crowd looks forward to watching the Shanegang Cloggers perform. This year they really let their artist talents loose. Roaring laughter filled the hall when their towels dropped and the censored signs appeared, great show!

Since 2002, under the direction of Andy Howard, American Racket a competition/show team has represented the USA in folklore festivals around the world. With a bit of foresight Johanna talked to Andy about getting enough members of American Racket Team together to demo at Nickel City. These talented dancers are doing a fantastic job of representing the USA. It was obvious they enjoy dancing and entertaining...keep smiling!

The Nickel City 2019 Festival came to and end with a fantastic fun dance in the round. Thanks Johanna Healy, the super volunteers, all the instructors, all those who made the fantastic baskets for the auction, and attendees, that make this a memorable event.



SAVE THE DATE
NICKEL CITY FESTIVAL
PARTY LIKE IT'S THE 90'S
APRIL 16 17 &18, 2020



Clogging News.....**....Dee Gallina retiring**

Recently Dee Gallina announced her retirement from teaching. Dee has been a prominent member of the Florida clogging community and has been teaching for over 30 years. Here is what one student had to say about her years with Dee.



My passion for clogging continues, even as I age. The fellowship we've experienced over the years is PRICELESS!

Our instructor, Dee, has a unique way of teaching her students. We've enjoyed dancing at so many fun places and it has enriched all our lives.

My main reason for spending each season in Ft. Myers is "clogging"! Through the years we've been fortunate to learn from several clogging instructors. Dee has been so kind and patient with all of us.

In conclusion, we will miss her and our performances so much. We will, however, have memories that no one can ever take from us. She has been an absolute "inspiration" to us all.

Sincerely,
Sharon Stinson

P.S. Keep Clickin'

Although she has retired from teaching and her team, Dee plans to still be a part of our clogging community and support workshops in the area.

Thank you for all your years dedicated to this wonderful dance form and all it brings to us.

For more on Dee visit: [http://clogginginstructors.iclog.us/Dee Gallina.html](http://clogginginstructors.iclog.us/Dee_Gallina.html)





Upcoming Events

May 24-25, 2019

World of Clogging Workshops
Holiday Inn & Suites Eastgate
Cincinnati, OH
Hanna Healy 716-725-8415
worldofclogging@aol.com
worldofclogging.com

May 31-June 1, 2019

NCCA Clogging Convention
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Sacramento, CA
NCCA-INC.com

July 12-13, 2019

Kickin' It in Kentucky
Stanton City Park
Stanton, KY
Morgan Hudson morganh_02@hotmail.com

July 26-27, 2019

Double Toe Jam
Waco Convention Center
Waco, TX
info@doubletoejam.org
doubletoejam.org

July 26-28, 2019

Mississippi Clogging Extravaganza
Petal Civic Center
Petal, MS
Angie Miller, 601.906.2882
angiehalemiller@gmail.com
www.mscllogextravaganza.com

July 27, 2019

Fiddle Fest Workshop
Godard Memorial Hall
Springville, NY
Hanna Healy
wnyca.pres@gmail.com
www.wnyca.com/fiddlefest

August 2-3, 2019

Sunshine State Clogging Jamboree
Hilton Daytona Beach Ocean Front Resort
Daytona Beach, FL
Jeff Wood 850-386-1263
wood@talstar.com
Naomi Pyle 812-579-6979
Naomi_p@sbcglobal.net

August 23-25, 2019

SoCal Shindig Clogging Convention
La Mirada Holiday Inn
La Mirada, CA
SoCalCloggers@gmail.com
www.socalcloggers.org

September 13-14, 2019

39th Annual Folk Dance Festival
The Ozark Folk Center
Mountain View, AR

November 30-31, 2019

36th Annual C.L.O.G. National Clogging
Convention
Renaissance Las Vegas
Las Vegas, NV
David & Susan Phillips 678-889-4355
clog@clog.org
clog.org

Competitions

June 15, 2019

Grand Challenge of Champions (NCHC)
Silver Dollar City
Branson, MO
David and Susan Phillips
(678) 889-4355
gnccclog@gmail.com
gnccclog.webs.com

June 15, 2019

Riverfront Clogging Classic (ACHF)
Savannah Civic Center
Savannah, GA
Quinn Stansell (704) 418-8047
qstansell@gmail.com

June 22, 2019

Cherokee Clogging Challenge (CCA)
Cherokee Central School
Cherokee, NC
Ccaclog.com

July 6, 2019

Let the Sparks Fly Competition C
Cabool, MO
Rebecca Peterson (417) 254-3168
matbec@centurytel.net

July 27, 2019

Mississippi State Showdown (NCHC)
Petal Civic Center
Petal, MS
Angie Miller 601.906.2882
angiehalemiller@gmail.com
www.mscllogextravaganza.com

August 3, 2019

Battle in B-Town (CCA)
Monroe Convention Center
Bloomington, IN
indianadan@cecompany.com
Ccaclog.com

August 17, 2019

Wilson County Fair (NCHC)
Lebanon, TN
Grace Pack gpack33@aol.com

August 31-September 1, 2018

USA National Championships (NCHC)
Gaylord Opryland Hotel
Nashville, TN
Registration Information:
ALANIER821@AOL.COM
Opryland Hotel Reservations
ON-LINE Reservations

October 5, 2019

Georgia State Clogging Festival (NCHC)
Anderson Music Hall
Hiawassee, GA
clog@clog.org
<https://gscfclog.wixsite.com/gscfclog>

November 9, 2019

Mars Hill Match-Up (NCHC)
Mars Hill University Moore Auditorium
Mars Hill, NC
Danielle Plimpton dplimpton@yahoo.com

**Check with event coordinators
to confirm event details!**

CLOG Welcomes New Members

Kristin Nesbitt, WI
Jessica Broyles, FL
Anita McClure, FL
Cynthia White, NV
Jane Murray, CA
Mary Hanson, CA
James Hanson, CA
Sasha Koziak, CA

For information on joining CLOG
visit our website at ww.clog.org or
contact us at 678-889-4355

*Have an event you want listed here?
Send the information to:
CLOGToday@clog.org*

C.L.O.G.
The National Clogging Organization, Inc.

www.clog.org

(678) 889-4355 clog@clog.org

Join the CLOG team

One-year CLOG Membership

Gold (instructors) \$30.00

Silver (dancer) \$25.00

Send the following info & check

Name Home Phone

Address Work Phone

City, State, Zip E-mail address

Clogging Group Membership

List membership in area, state, and/
or national clogging associations

To: **CLOG, Inc.**

**2986 Mill Park Court
Dacula, GA 30019**



The National Clogging Organization, Inc.

David and Susan Phillips, Executive Directors
2986 Mill Park Court
Dacula, GA USA 30019

**36th Annual CLOG
National Convention
~ Las Vegas, NV ~**

**November 27-30, 2019
Make Your Plans Now!**

Featuring:

Premier Clogging Instructors
Early Registration & Member Discounts

Schedule

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Wednesday-Thursday | Certified Clogging Instructor Seminar |
| Wednesday 1:00-4:00 | Workshops- Up and Rising Instructors |
| Wednesday - Saturday | Nightly Fun Dances |
| Thursday | Dance Expose |
| Thursday 9AM-3PM | Workshops- p and Rising Instructors |
| Thursday Late Afternoon | Thanksgiving Dinner |
| Thursday Evening | Parade of Colors |
| Friday -Saturday | Workshops- National Instructors |
| 9am - 5pm | Over 75 hours of Workshops & Seminars |

Friday Evening - Excursion - TBA

Friday Evening - Enjoy the Fun Dance

Saturday 7 PM Fun Dance

Schedule Subject to change

**ALL ACTIVITIES
UNDER ONE
ROOF!**



Hotel Info:

Renaissance Las Vegas

3400 Paradise Rd. • Las Vegas, NV 89169

[Hotel onLine Reservation](#)

GROUP ROOM RATES

Rate: \$104 1-4 ppl per room + tax

Parking—1 car per room free, additional \$5/day

Guaranteed Rate until 10/31/2019

Rooms will Sell Out—Reserve Yours Today!!

Register Online at www.clog.org/convention

INFO: 678-889-4355 convention@clog.org



The National Clogging Organization, Inc.